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S/S # 8118744

Date 7/31/81

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: The President FROM: Mr. Said Arikat

DATE: June 10, 1981 SUBJECT: Urges the President to enforce the law and halt the shipment of F-16's to Israel

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: 6/17/81 NSC # 028262 (if any)

____ THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

81 JUL 31 P6:14

ACTION TAKEN:

_____ A draft reply is attached.

_____ A draft reply will be forwarded.

_____ A translation is attached.

__X__ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

_____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.

_____ Other.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY WMB DATE 1/18/99
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA FOI EXEMPTIONS

REMARKS:

PA/PC/CM:GDavis:dj
X21393 7-15-81
NEA: 6/81
PA: J. O'Neill

Nancy M. Dorn for
L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 16, 1981

Dear Mr. Arikat:

I am replying to your telegram to President Reagan concerning the June 7 Israeli air attack on the nuclear reactor under construction in Tuwaitha, Iraq.

On June 8, the Department Spokesman condemned the Israeli air strike, noting that the unprecedented character of this action would seriously add to the already tense situation in the area and complicate our efforts to peacefully resolve problems there. The United States was not consulted in any way about any phase of the operation and was not informed of it in advance.

On June 10, the President suspended the scheduled delivery of four F-16 aircraft to Israel pending further study of the Israeli action and consultations with Congress. That same day, pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, Secretary Haig sent letters to the Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees indicating that a substantial violation of the 1952 U.S.-Israel Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement may have occurred. That agreement includes Israel's assurance that weapons acquired from the United States will be used only to maintain its internal security, its legitimate self-defense, or to permit it to participate in regional or United Nations (U.N.) collective security arrangements and measures. It also provides that Israel will not undertake any act of aggression against any other state. Israel has confirmed that the Israeli Air Force units involved in the air strike were equipped with defense articles furnished by the United States under the Foreign Military Sales program.

On June 19, the United States voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 487 condemning the Israeli attack, making clear our profound concern about the raid's impact on the peace and security of all the nations of the Middle East.

Mr. Said Arikat,
Executive Director,
The Palestine Congress of North America,
Post Office Box 9621,
Washington, D.C..

We are reviewing this entire matter and discussing it with the Government of Israel. Neither our condemnation nor the suspension of delivery of the four aircraft is meant to imply that we have reached any determination on the questions raised under U.S. law by Israel's act.

We have carefully noted the Israeli and Iraqi positions. Israel contends that its action against Iraq was a necessary, legitimate act of self-defense because the Iraqi reactor was intended to produce weapons grade material to make atomic bombs. Israel also points out that there is a state of war between the two countries and contends that Iraq had made clear its intention to produce such a weapon for use against Israel.

Iraq, on the other hand, denies that its nuclear program has any application other than the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Iraq points out that it has ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that its reactor and supply of enriched uranium were subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard controls.

The United States does not believe that force can provide the answer to international disputes. Our condemnation of Israel's action was intended to clearly express this view. At the same time, as Ambassador Kirkpatrick made clear before the U.N. Security Council, we remain fully committed to the security and well-being of Israel and to the friendship between our two countries. The United States will continue to do all in its power to achieve a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Sincerely,

s/7/15/81

Dean E. Fischer
Assistant Secretary-Designate
for Public Affairs
and Department Spokesman

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JUNE 17, 1981

8118744

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 028262

MEDIA: TELEGRAM, DATED JUNE 10, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. SAID ARIKAT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE PALESTINE CONGRESS OF NORTH AMERICA
POST OFFICE BOX 9621
WASHINGTON DC 20016

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO ENFORCE THE LAW AND HALT THE SHIPMENT OF F - 16'S TO ISRAEL

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Jack Burgess

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WHA085(1525)(4-046295S161)PD 06/10/81 1526

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

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PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC

THE PALESTINE CONGRESS OF NORTH AMERICA URGES YOU TO ENFORCE THE LAW AND HALT THE SHIPMENT OF F16S TO ISRAEL

SAID ARIKAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PO BOX 9621 WASHINGTON DC 20016

PO BOX 9621

WASHINGTON DC 20016

NNNN